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TOWN OF MANSFIELD  
Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting  
September 24, 2009

Present: Knox (chair), Ames, Coughlin, Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m.

The minutes of the June 30, 2009 were reviewed. December 4, 2008 had been reviewed at the June meeting. Both June and December's minutes will need to be approved when there is a meeting quorum.

Walton reported that in the beginning of September she participated in the Mansfield Community Campus Partnership door-to-door introductions made to students living in off-campus apartments and single-family homes. She also met with the student leaders who work for UConn's Off-Campus Student Services to review trash service and the prevention of blight and litter. Through Off-Campus Student Services she is seeking volunteers to adopt Hunting Lodge/North Eagleville Roads.

The Green Teens, from EO Smith High School, are in the process of getting a compost bin built at EO Smith so that a school composting program can start this school year. The elementary and middle schools composting programs are back in operation with the new school year.

Walton stated that there is one outstanding citation for blight that happened at the end of the 2009 school year. To prevent blight, when Walton notices trash by the road after trash collection day she immediately contacts the residents. Otherwise, Mansfield's Housing Inspections has been diligent about visiting problem properties.

Walton stated that there are about eighty 14-gallon recycling containers left in storage (standard issue). Walton brought a 24-gallon sample recycling container for the committee's consideration. With recyclables now collected single stream, should the Town offer larger recycling containers at cost? The committee decided that since residents can use whatever container they have on hand and are not required to use a Town-issued container, that it is not necessary to offer recycling containers. Additionally, the committee thought the sample container cost too much (\$22) and needed wheels.

Walton reported that the Festival on the Green generated 340 pounds of waste of which 88% or 297 pounds were composted and recycled. The committee agreed that the town should start working on a town low-waste event policy.

The UConn Give and Go program will be coordinated by UConn Student Outreach this year. Walton will help out with this move-out collection program again. Planning will begin in November.

The committee was asked to review the bag tag policy. When the Town first started using bag tags for extra trash, new residents were given two free bag tags. This policy has been mostly in disuse and inconsistently applied. The committee recommended to end giving away free bag tags.

Walton reported that for a two-week trial, cans and bottles were compacted at the transfer station. The impetus for this pilot was to reduce the hauling fees by increasing the amount hauled out of the transfer station. For two weeks, one of the two trash compactors was used exclusively for bottles and cans. Although the compactor increased the quantity per load hauled out of the transfer station (from 1.6 tons to 3.5 tons per haul), the logistics of using one compactor for cans and bottles created a parking bottleneck. To eliminate this, a third compactor would need to be added where the bottles and cans roll-off container is currently located. This would involve running 3-phase power from Rte 89, which at this time is cost prohibitive. The transfer station collection set-up for now will remain unchanged.

Walton reported that the sustainability committee is still in the process of getting organized. If there is a SWAC member that would like to attend, the next meeting is November 4, 2009 at 7 pm.

Knox asked if the committee wants to resume considering the issue of plastic bags, since the proposed state law to charge 5 cents for retail bags did not pass this year. Plastic bags will be included as an agenda item at the next meeting.

Bob Coughlin said that he is interested in serving as a SWAC member. Staff will notify the Committee on Committees.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2009 in conference room C. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton  
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator

Cc: Lon R. Hultgren, Director of Public Works, Members, file, Town Manager, Town Clerk